



Name of Project: Florida Aging and Disability Resource Center

Name of Organization: Florida Department of Elder Affairs

Principles of Choices for Independence: Empowerment/Access to Information and Services

Description

As a 2004 ADRC grantee, Florida developed Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), utilizing Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) in three locations across the state to serve the elderly and individuals with severe mental illness. The AAAs who led this initiative included Senior Resource Alliance, the AAA of Pasco-Pinellas, and the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Broward County. Florida's ADRC efforts complemented the states priority to develop a single point of entry into long-term care. The Florida Legislature passed statutory changes to implement Aging Resource Centers (ARCs) statewide. \$3.3 million of state dollars was invested to support ARCs and ADRCs.

Strong leadership at the state and local level has been a key element in the success of Florida's model. Florida's resource centers are designed to co-locate those services most critical to making long-term care decisions including:

- information and referral,
- screening and assessment,
- access to crisis intervention,
- medical and financial eligibility determination, and
- long term care counseling.

In order to carryout this design, Florida established a single administrative structure accessible through multiple locations (e.g., local Medicaid office, senior centers, AAAs, housing authorities, mental health centers) in each of the Resource Center communities. To formalize some of these partnerships, State and Regional Level Memoranda of Agreements were created between the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the

Florida Department of Children and Families. Florida recognized early on that multiple partnerships would be required to carry out their vision of ADRC services being accessible in person, by phone and the Internet.

Florida's efforts to successfully pass single point of entry legislation and allocation of state resources demonstrated Florida's commitment to the ADRC initiative. Additional outcomes from Florida's efforts included:

- Florida's ADRC efforts resulted in the Davis Productivity Award. Specifically the interagency ADRC Team was recognized with a 2006 Certificate of Commendation for "streamlined access to elder and severe and persistent mental illness services."
- Since the co-location efforts in St. Petersburg, the average amount of time it takes to process a Medicaid waiver application has decreased from 13.7 days to 3.3 days.
- The ADRC Pilot Site in Broward County shared a plan used to measure the agency's goals, strategies, and progress towards provision of culturally competent services including the addition of a bi-lingual counselor.
- Florida has posted on the ADRC website (adrc-tae.org) an *ADRC Readiness Review Checklist* which is a tool developed so states could determine if a pilot site is ready to become an ADRC and a *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* which encompasses recognition of responsibilities in the event of a disaster, natural or manmade, and its impact on Florida's elders.

For more information on the Florida Aging and Disability Resource Center, please contact: Sandi Smith, Project Manager, at 850-414-2139 or by email at smithsl@elderaffairs.org The website for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs is <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>